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(Telephone No. 6a.)

Hongkong, 23rd April, 1889.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,
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WATSON'S

PATENT DESSICATING OR DRYING
BOTTLES.

A. S. W. & Co. beg to call attention to their new PATENT DRYING BOTTLES which have been specially designed and manufactured for them.

By the use of these bottles, CIGARS as well as ALL GOODS which are susceptible to the destroying influences of moisture can be kept in good and perfect condition.

Whenever or wherever the atmosphere is surcharged with moisture these bottles will be found invaluable.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.
Hongkong, 4th April, 1889.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1889.

EVERY man who rules over his fellow men, whether by that rapidly decaying *ignis fatuus* misnamed 'right divine' or by the ordinary current of events, should stand, like CÆSAR's wife, above suspicion. His every act should be impervious to hostile attack, and open to the widest latitude in fair criticism. No ruler can govern wisely and well who does not possess the confidence of his subjects. These remarks are mere truisms which have been widely recognised for ages, but they are just as applicable to Hongkong to-day as when the great CÆSAR in his death agony covered his face to hide BRUTUS from his gaze, or when CHARLES STUART paid the penalty of his treachery to the people on the scaffold outside Whitehall. In these modern days the great curse of rulers has been their too ready acquiescence in acts of nepotism and jobbery. Oblivious of the fact that the positions they hold are of a purely representative character, that they are public trustees, and nothing more, many officials placed in high positions have become notorious, in degrading both themselves and their offices by arbitrarily assuming autocratic functions and gratifying their own personal interests or preferences at the expense of the public. Seldom a week passes but we find some English journalist thundering against abuses of this sort, ranging from the Queen down to the lowest jack-in-office, but rampant as official jobbery has become at home, we doubt if it is very much worse, under all circumstances, than it has been in the past and still continues to be in this island of Hongkong.

Governor DES VŒUX has certainly no reason so far to complain of any harsh or unfair criticisms of himself or of his policy that have appeared in this journal. From the first we recognised an evident desire to do his utmost for the benefit of the colony at large, and if at times we have been compelled to differ with him in some matters of detail, we have almost invariably been able to conscientiously support his general policy. But we cannot support barefaced jobbery, and we regret to have more than once recently observed the cloven hoof veering in that direction. It is just possible, although we fail to see it, that His Excellency was justified in appointing to the responsible position of Acting Surveyor-General, over the heads of a number of old and experienced members of the Public Works Department, a young man who has only been a few months in the colony, whose Quixotic notions on sanitation have excited almost universal ridicule and contempt, and whose only work—the so-called reclamation of the Wong-nel-chong Valley—has proved a ghastly failure; but there certainly can be no justification for the appointment of Mr. BAUCE SHERBURN as Acting Registrar of the Supreme Court,

ignoring the claims of the two gentlemen who have for years past been officiating as Deputy Registrars alike to the satisfaction of the Government, the high officers of the Supreme Court, and the Hongkong community. This action of the Governor's can only be fairly characterised as a disgraceful job, and we do not hesitate to give it its proper name. The post of Registrar of the Supreme Court is a most important one—so important that a few years ago, after the *MURRAY* fiasco, the Secretary of State thought it necessary to send out an experienced barrister-at-law from London to take up the duties, and since that time the post has always been filled by a qualified lawyer. We do not go the length of saying that the position could not be adequately filled by any person who is not a trained lawyer, but we contend that it requires man thoroughly acquainted with legal procedure or who has by years of practical experience demonstrated his fitness to properly fulfil the duties. Mr. BRUCE SHEPHERD, of whom we desire to speak with all respect, is not a barrister-at-law, he is not even a solicitor, and he has no acquaintance, practical or otherwise, with the Registrar's duties. Mr. SHEPHERD came to Hongkong only a few years ago to take up the special appointment of clerk of the deeds registry in the Land Office, and it is only fair to say that he bears the reputation of having performed his duties with thorough efficiency. But that record cannot possibly justify his appointment over the heads of Mr. SAMUEL BARRY and Mr. C. F. A. SANGSTER, his seniors both as regards length of service and experience, to the lucrative positions of Acting Registrar of the Supreme Court, Official Assignee, Official Trustee, and Registrar of Public Companies. Why were the superior claims of the two Deputy Registrars ignored and set aside? Is neither one of them competent to perform the duties of Registrar? Strange, if true. Mr. BARRY has been in the Colonial Service since 1868, and he acted as deputy registrar of the Supreme Court so far back as 1879. Mr. SANGSTER joined the public service of this colony in 1860, he acted as deputy registrar in 1877 and as Registrar in 1881 and 1882, and he has been in the department ever since, fulfilling his duties to the satisfaction of all concerned. Mr. SANGSTER is also a barrister all but in name, having only a few more formal dinners to eat to make him a member of that most arrogant of trades unions. Why then, we again ask, should these two old and valued officers' claims be set aside for a comparative new-comer who possesses no claims whatever? It is said that Mr. SHEPHERD was recently offered an appointment in a public company lately started in the colony, and that this acting registrarship was promised to him by the Government as an inducement to refuse the gilded pill of \$5,000 per annum. The 'sop to Cerberus' was effectual, and one of the shabbiest pieces of official jobbery Hongkong has yet known became a matter of history. There is a general feeling of regret among Governor DE Vaux's friends and supporters that he has so flagrantly deserted the high-principled platform of political ethics he has been at such pains to advocate since his arrival here.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter.)

AMERICA.

LONDON, April 22nd.

Oklahoma, in Indian territory, has been opened up and 50,000 settlers have made a rush to occupy the land; bloodshed is feared among the competing settlers.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

There will be a game of Polo at Causeway Bay, at 4.45 p.m. to-morrow.

It appears that there is an aggregate of over \$20,000,000 of foreign capital invested in American mines.

The *Secolo*, a Milan newspaper, is publishing the Bible in 210 half-penny parts of eight pages each and 900 wood-cuts.

We learn that the boy who died of hydrophobia on Saturday, at the Hospital, stated that he has been bitten by a mad dog in Canton some three months ago.

STATISTICS show that during the last year the Government of the United States purchased 28,920,398 standard ounces of silver for \$24,491,340.

"Why cannot a woman become a successful lawyer, I should like to know?" asked a lady a cynical old judge. "Because, madam," answered, "she's too fond of giving her opinion without being paid for it."

An English advertisement reads:—"A pious young man desirous to be received into a respectable family, where the excellence of his example and superior morality might be considered as equivalent for board and lodgings."

A CHINESE coolie who found a ramrod on the 600 yards range at Kowloon, during the recent Rifle Meeting, was unfortunate enough to catch putting it up his back, and as an incensed magistrate refused to believe that he was doing so to stop his nose from bleeding, he now doing his little month's hard.

LORD Palmerston had fifty-eight years of public life, and in another year Mr. Gladstone will have 'dead-heated' this lengthy record.

WE are informed by the agent of the Austro-Hungarian Lloyd's S. N. Co. that the Company's steamer *Mada* left Colombo yesterday morning for this port.

M. DE TOHIHATCHEF, a Russian writer, asserts that the average flow of petroleum in the Baku region is 88,000 barrels per day, as against 2,300 barrels in the United States.

EDITOR.—"What kind of a looking man is it who wants to see me?" Office Boy.—"I can't tell whether he's a broker or a peace fighter." "Both sorts are harmless." Admit him.

THE General Managers (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.) inform us that the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co.'s steamer *Taiyang*, from Calcutta, left Singapore for this port to-day.

A REGULAR meeting of Zealand Lodge, No. 526, will be held in Freemason's Hall, Zealand Street, on Friday, the 3rd proximo, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

A FASHIONABLE young woman in New York has lately undergone a remarkable surgical operation by which her uplifted nose became an organ of pure Grecian design. The cruel charge is now made that the new nose does not suit the general conformation of her face.

HAIPHONG papers report that an Annamite Pagoda has been shipped to the Paris Exhibition. The structure, when put together, will be large enough to admit of a few native dances performing the religious rites within its precincts. A contingent of the fraternity have preceded to France.

THE proposal to construct a tunnel between Elsinore and Denmark and Helsingborg in Sweden, so as to unite the two great peninsulas of Northern Europe, is being seriously considered. The distance is about 18,000 feet, and the greatest water depth is about 70 feet, so that the difficulties in the way are very serious.

THE Band of the A. & S. Highlanders will play in the Public Gardens, to-morrow, commencing at 3.30 p.m. The following will be the programme:—

March.....	"The Fire Brigade....."	IV Acc.
"....."	"Unter den Linden....."	Gay.
Selection.....	"Reminiscences of All Nations' Godfrey,"	
"Valse....."	"Du Premier Bousquet....."	Waldteufel.
Galop.....	"Down the Road....."	Harper.

TONQUIN affairs have lately been warmly discussed in the Paris Chamber of Deputies. At a recent sitting Deputy Andreux submitted the proposal of withdrawing the military forces from the country, on the plea of the heavy expenses they entailed. After a great deal of discussion in which a Bishop took an active part, M. Constans, the late Governor-General of Indo-China, entered the tribune and explained the many reasons why the withdrawal of the troops from Tonquin would be disastrous. On a division being declared, the *status quo* was adopted by 277 votes against 215.

THE folly of using Latin terms not understood by the common people in giving directions for the use of medicines was shown recently at a London hospital. A physician prescribed an injection of cocaine for a patient, but instead of giving the directions in plain English he used a Latin word, and as a result the cocaine was administered internally, causing almost immediate death. Why physicians should seek to cast a cloak of mystery about their transactions by the use of a dead language is not apparent to those who believe that good old-fashioned English affords nearly a perfect medium for the conveyance of ideas.

ABOUT once a month we register a blood-curdling oath on the accumulated files of the *Tribune* to the effect that the very next time our compositorial staff exasperate us by their inconceivably idiotic style of spelling we will appeal to our readers, by publishing the paper with all its errors on its head. We don't know that we shan't do it, some day, but in the mean time we will get even to some extent by reproducing, *literatim*, a portion of a familiar recitation, as "set up" the other day by a natural idiot with a queue and a composing stick. The public will see what we have to put up with in the following:—

THE SURNAL OF A JOIN MOON.

Not a dream was I saw a flower on his cone to the rain-gods. We hired not a soldier discharged his farewell to the Over-Program when our Hero we bid.

"Valse....." "Unter den Linden....." Gay. The soda with ob beverages turned. By his shuffling nose-bows nifty light and the lantern drily huing.

We made coffee and his breast not in shun nor in shewer we were him. But he lay like a wailer taking his note. With his martial clock he say.

Few and short were the prayers and said, and, we spoke not work of sorrow. But we too gloriously galed on the fall that we died and we blithely thought of the morrow.

SUPREME COURT.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

(Before Acting Chief Justice Clarke.)

THE FATAL AFFRAY IN EAST STREET.

John Delanche, a West Indian sailor, was arraigned for the wilful murder of a Chinese cook, named Chung Achuan, on the 12th ultimo. He pleaded not guilty.

The Acting Attorney General (instructed by Mr. Stokes) prosecuted, and Mr. Robinson instructed by Mr. Calderell, defended.

The jury consisted of Messrs. S. C. Michaelson, A. Lynd, S. Hancock, E. Burnie, A. C. Stokes, F. Henderson, and S. D. Setna.

The Acting Attorney-General, in opening the case, said that the crime with which the prisoner was charged was a heinous one, and consequently great responsibility rested on the jury as officers concerned in dealing with it. The fact, however, were very simple. The story of the prosecution was that on the 12th March, about 6.30 p.m., the prisoner entered a second-hand clothes shop, 12 East-street, apparently for the purpose of purchasing some clothes. The master of the shop, who would be called, bargained with him respecting the sale of some shirts that were on the counter. The prisoner seemed to have suddenly thrown two of them down, as bolted with a third. An assistant in the shop immediately gave orders to the deceased to pursue him, and he did so, being followed by the assistant. He caught the prisoner, but the latter got away again. He again caught him, and the prisoner then strobe him. The shopman still kept up the pursuit, and was stabbed in the hand when attempting to detain the prisoner. The latter then got away for a short time, but on returning along the street a little later was arrested. The deceased in the meantime been taken to the Hospital, where he died. The circumstances under which he died would be detailed in due course. (The speaker) did not wish to anticipate what his defence would be, but it was probable that the attempt would be made to reduce the charge from the greater one to that of manslaughter. Subject to the direction of his Lordship, however, he submitted that that would need to be clearly established. He then called

Fung Atsoi, a shopman at 12 East-street. He presented the evidence he gave at the Police Court, to the effect that the prisoner entered the shop, in which second-hand clothes, &c., were sold, and said he wanted a shirt. Three were shown to him, at sixty cents each. He said they were too poor, and then, throwing two of them on the floor, ran off with the third. The master called out to the cook to run after him and get the shirt back. He did so, and witness followed. He saw the cook catch the prisoner, and the latter get away again. The cook again seized him, and then witness saw him put his hand to his breast, and heard him say "Oh dear; I am stabbed." Witness went on, and got hold of the prisoner, who cut him in the hand slightly. Witness still followed him until he was arrested by a district watchman.

Mr. Robinson cross-examined, with considerable minuteness as to the transactions in the shop, when

His Lordship asked if the point was material?

Mr. Robinson replied that it was, as the case for the defence was that the whole evidence as to the prisoner entering the shop was trumped-up, and he wished to test the credibility of the witness.

Witness continuing, asserted that he never lost sight of the prisoner from the time he left the shop until he was arrested. He saw him throw away the shirt soon after leaving the shop, before the cook caught him. He did not see more than one stab given, but then it was nearly dark.

Dr. Atkinson stated that the deceased died the morning after he was brought to the Hospital. He had a slight wound on the left arm; another beneath the left shoulder blade, and a deep one on the side. The latter, which divided the spleen and entered the stomach, was the cause of death.

Chun Cho, master of the shop 12 East Street, corroborated the evidence of the first witness to a considerable extent, and was only briefly cross-examined.

Ho Yun, an informer, was next called. He said he was in the cock-loft of the shop 12 East Street on the evening of the 12th ult., when the prisoner entered. He saw him bargaining about a shirt, and, after looking at several, throw one down and run out with another. An alarm was raised, and witness saw the cook who ran out, stabbed by the prisoner a few feet from the door.

Inspector Hickey having detailed the circumstances of the first trial.

P.C. Haddon stated that he afterwards took the prisoner to the lodging house where he had been staying, and heard him say to another negro named Olson—"Olson, I want you to come up to the Police-court as a witness for me." Olson replied "I know nothing about it," and the prisoner rejoined "They've fixed me." No more was passed.

The prisoner's statement at the Police-court having been put in.

The Attorney-General said that that closed the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Robinson, for the defence, said that the case for the prosecution was one of calling witnesses by a murder. He submitted that he was able to discredit the evidence with regard to the alleged stealing he had a right to expect them to believe his version of the circumstances under which the deceased was stabbed. The prosecution alleged that the prisoner went into the shop and stole a shirt. After pointing out that the witnesses called by the prosecution varied in their evidence in several important details, Mr. Robinson said that he did not propose, as anticipated by the prosecution, to ask that the charge should be reduced to that of manslaughter—he would demand a complete acquittal. He rested his case on the fact laid down in Archbold, by which it was held that a man who was attacked might justifiably kill his opponent if unable to retreat either because of any impediment or on the violence of the attack made on him.

Antonio Gutierrez, shipping officer at the Harbour Office, stated:—On the morning of the 12th March the prisoner came to the Office to sign articles to serve on a ship. He received, a month's pay in advance, from which about \$12 were deducted for passage from Shanghai and hospital expenses.

Joseph Olson, fireman, said that he met the prisoner a few days before the 12th March. On that day, about six o'clock, he went down East Street with the prisoner, when they met a Chinaman, who was drinking, and the Chinaman had one hand on his head to keep it dry. His elbow was projecting, and it caught the prisoner's nose, making it bleed. There was going to be a row, then, but witness would not let them fight, taking prisoner down to the Praya instead. After staying about half an hour they went back and ten or a dozen Chinamen, with bamboo met them at the place where the other little row was, and began "licking" the prisoner. Witness saw that there was going to be a big row, and that there were too many Chinamen he ran away to his lodgings, and saw no more of it.

The Attorney-General:—We lived in the same room as the prisoner's lodgings, and we know that he was in the place where the row was. We did not make way to give the Chinamen more room to pass us because he had plenty.

Here the Attorney-General read the prisoner's statement, and pointed out that it differed from that of the witness, but the latter adhered to it.

Witness continued:—We went for a walk to reduce the food from our stomachs (laughter) I did not see where the Chinamen struck the prisoner when they attacked him, but they all struck him. They penned him up so that I do not think he could have got away.

Abdol Ismail, keeper of the house in which the prisoner lodged, was next called, and caused a remarkable agreement by turning out prisoner's words for the purpose of showing that the prisoner had shirts, without needing to steal any.

Mr. Robinson, in concluding the case for the defence, pointed out that the facts of the deceased made allegations of theft against the prisoner in order to account for the motive of the murder. According to their story the prisoner, whilst sober, clumsily stole a fifty cent shirt, although he was going to start work next morning, and then, when pursued, cold-bloodedly slew the first man who detained him. No one else was who saw the stabbing but the Chinamen. He said he never saw the prisoner again from the shop, from among the claimants of the deceased. How was it, if he followed the prisoner every step of the way until he was arrested, that they did not see him throw away the shirt he stole? The non-production of it disposed of the accusation, that it was not necessary to point out that the prisoner was not without money and forced to steal a shirt. The learned counsel then referred to the hatred which he said existed between the Chinese and negroes, and the widespread secret organizations, whose members rose and combined with such fidelity against the enemy, and need hardly be said of acquittal, not to their sense of sentiment, but to that of justice.

The Acting Attorney-General, in reply, said that he would again the case to be dealt with as a whole, without again entering into details. The story told by the prisoner's witnesses, Olson, bore a stamp of friendship and goodwill, but it differed very materially from the prisoner's own statement. The latter asserted that a drunken Chinaman ran up to him and struck him wildly in the face. The statements of both led him to believe that the group of Chinamen were lying in wait for the prisoner, although there was nothing to lead

to him to believe that he was going to return that evening, or that way. If the story for the prosecution was to be believed, there was no justification in his using a knife.

His lordship, in summing up, said that there was no doubt of two things, that a man was killed and that the killing inflicted the fatal blow. They might bring in one of three verdicts, either that of murder, the lesser one of manslaughter, or one of justifiable homicide. He then referred to the theory of the prosecution, and asked if it was to be credited. The witnesses differed as to his conduct after the alleged theft, and it was shown that he was in no immediate need of clothing. The fact of too great consistency would point to conspiracy, but he would show that not only on account of what they had said that day, but what they had said before, they were not entitled to credit. He then referred to the evidence of one or two witnesses at the various hearings before the Magistrate and in the Court. With regard to the theory for the defence, there was a good deal of similarity between the prisoner's statement and Olson's evidence; according to both something occurred about six o'clock which caused the fight at half-past six. But the jury must not run away with the idea that because he was assaulted he was justified in using the knife. There was a possible explanation of the case in this—the prisoner was assaulted by a Chinaman outside this shop, and on his return he was attacked by the Chinaman's friends. It had been suggested that the attack was made by members of a secret society, but that had not been proved. If it was a mere casual attack by a Chinaman, and with regard to revenge, it would reduce the crime to one of manslaughter. If they believed that prisoner was savagely attacked, and so hemmed in that he could not escape otherwise than the way he did, it would be justifiable homicide.

The jury then retired, and returned after an absence of five minutes, when the foreman (Mr. Michaelson) announced that by a majority of four to three they found the prisoner guilty of manslaughter.

In answer to the formal inquiry the prisoner said that he had nothing to urge why his sentence should not be passed.

His lordship then said:—You have been convicted of the crime of manslaughter, a verdict in which I thoroughly concur. I think there have been guilty of most reckless use of a murderous weapon, and people like you who go about armed with knives, ready to resent any affront or cause of irritation you may receive, public safety requires must be severely punished. I sentence you to three years' imprisonment.

We understand that the minority of three were in favor of the prisoner's acquittal.

THE STRANDING OF THE "AFGHAN."

MARINE COURT OF INQUIRY.

A Marine Court of Inquiry into the circumstances attending the stranding of the British steamship *Afghan* in the vicinity of Lema Island on the 12th inst., was held at the Marine Court, Harbour Office, Commander R. Murray Rumsey, R.N., Stipendiary Magistrate, presided, and the following were the assessors:—Lieut. Mills, R.N. of the *Victor Emanuel*; Capt. George Pease of the British steamer *Protonitis*; Captain Stewart Duncan, of the British steamer *Moray*; and Captain James Young, of the British steamer *Nanshan*. The letter from Mr. Thomas Golding, Master of the *Afghan*, applying for an enquiry into the circumstances of the stranding of the vessel, was read, after which Mr. Thos. Golding gave the following evidence:—I am a certificated of the British steamer *Afghan*. I hold a master's certificate of office, issued in London in May, 1895. I left Nagasaki on 7th inst. at 8 a.m., had N.E. winds with foggy weather. The morning, which was passed at 10.15 in the turning off the 10th passed Dodd Island 18½ miles off; sighted Chapel Island light at about 9.30 p.m. on the 10th; I kept on at 4.47 W. true course. At 9.30 a.m. on the 11th I imagined I was off Lammock Island; the weather was very thick, so I kept on the same course until 1 p.m., when I took observation which placed the ship in lat. 22 deg. 55 min. N. I then altered the course to S. 88 W. At 4 p.m. I got observations which placed the ship at 116.44 E. There was a haze over the land, so I was not able to see the Breaker until I went to bed at 9 o'clock, and got up before midnight. I came out and saw that the light was clear. At one o'clock on the 12th I took the officer on watch to keep a good look-out for Pedro Blanco, and call me at 10 o'clock. I again came on deck; there was nothing to be seen; the course was altered to S. 88 W. I remained on the bridge until 6 a.m. Between 6.30 and 7 I saw a number of fishing junka. At 7.15 the sun came out, and took my observations. The horizon was very clear, we were in long. 114.42 E. About this time the weather thickened to the westward. At 7.30 a I did not see land, I stopped, sounded and found 20 fathoms. It became subsequent clear, I started again full speed. At 7.30 the engine came out, and I took time to clear away the junka. At 11.42 E. I put engine dead slow, and kept a good look-out. I remained on the bridge myself. About 3 minutes after I stopped the engines I saw a white line of foam on the starboard bow, about 400 feet from the ship. I ordered the engines full speed astern, about a minute and a half after putting the engines astern, the vessel struck on the starboard bow. I ordered the boats to be cleared away, and sounded the bells; the carpenter reported 4 feet at the forepeak, but no water in the forehold. I then ordered half of the crew to go clear of the boat and the other half to clear away the lifeboats. We got a tall over the bow in about half an hour's time. I found then that the ship was drifting to the N.W., I ordered the kedge anchor to be let go. We lay there 1.30 p.m., when it cleared up, and having got pilot, we started for Hongkong, arriving here about 7.30. It was very thick and we had to go very slow. I attribute the casualty to the deceptive appearance of the weather, it being clear enough to the eastward to take observation and I imagined I could see further to the westward.

James C. Wilson said:—I am chief officer of the *Afghan*. I hold a master's certificate of office, issued in London on the 15th April; I am on an observation; we were in lat. 22.55 at 12.1 p.m. The captain's observation agreed with mine. I was satisfied with the sight. The weather was clear overhead, but very hazy the horizon. On the 12th I had the moral weather; the weather was clear; the ship was going full speed; I took an observation at 1 o'clock, and slowed at 7.30; at about 7.30 minutes past 7 we tried to sound, but got no soundings, we then stopped. The ship was subsequently put at full speed ahead, and the Captain ordered another observation, it was fine and clear to the eastward, but hazy to the westward. The Captain told me to slow the engines and blow the whistle. This was at 7.45 minutes to 8. The Captain told me to look ahead, and 3 minutes afterwards saw a line of foam distant about the length of the ship; the engines were put astern, but the vessel struck immediately afterwards. After the strike the Captain ordered all hands to clear away the boats and a call was spread. There were 4 feet of water in the forepeak, but no water in the forehold or on any other part of the ship. I took my last observation at 8.15 minutes past 8.

14.12. I thought it should have come out within three or four miles either way. As master of the ship I should have considered myself quite justified in going on seeing the appearance of the water to the west. I can swear that I could see a mile and a half, and I consider that quite enough of a margin.

By Lieut Mills:—Supposing that eight put me ashore on shore, should you have considered myself justified in going on under the circumstances of the weather that morning. The fog must have been getting thicker rapidly after the last observation was taken.

James Hossack said: I am chief engineer of the steamship *Asghan*. I have the engine room log; at 7:00 on the morning of the 12th the ship was going full speed.—The first alteration of the speed at 7:27, when the engines were stopped; they were started again at 7:30.

The Court was then cleared and after about half an hour's consultation, the following finding was read by the President:—

"We find that the British steamship *Asghan*, official No. 7503, of Rochester, of which Thomas Golding, whose certificate as Master is No. 0755 was Master, left Nagasaki on 7th April and experienced thick weather to Turnabout.

"That from Turnabout the weather continued thick, and that on the morning of April 12th at about 8 o'clock, the ship struck on N.E. Head of Lema Island.

"That she immediately came off, and although the bottom was damaged in the Fore Peak, no other serious damage appears to have been sustained.

"We are of opinion that the Master appears to have navigated his vessel in a seamanlike and proper manner, and when a casualty was inevitable, to have done his best in his power.

"That the casualty appears to have been brought about through the ship being about to miles South of her supposed position, and the Master having been deceived by the weather and estimating that he could see further than was the case.

"We are, however, of opinion that the Master would have shown more prudence if he had made freer use of his lead, but we do not consider this omission amounted to a default.

"That the Court, seeing no ground for blaming the conduct of the Master, returns his certificate to him."

Hongkong, 26th April, 1889.

R. MURRAY RUMSAY, R.N.,
President of the Court.

Lieut. R. S. MILLS, R.N.

G. HEASLEY.

W. J. DUNCAN.

J. YOUNG.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held this afternoon. There were present: His Excellency the Governor (Sir William de Vaux); the Colonial Secretary (Dr. F. Stewart); Mr. H. E. Woodhouse, Colonial Treasurer; Mr. N. G. Mitchell-Innes, Acting Registrar-General; Messrs. P. Ryrie, C. P. Chater, Wong Shing, J. Keewick, and Mr. Seth, Clerk of Councils.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCIAL.

The Colonial Secretary laid on the table Statement of the total Receipts and Expenditure for the past year, and a report of the proceedings of the Finance Committee. He then moved that the following votes be referred to the Finance Committee:—\$600, as an increase of salary of the Director of the Observatory; \$25 for the construction of a verandah at the Magistrate's Office.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded.

His Excellency announced that the Estimates have been confirmed by the Secretary of State.

THE SALARIES OF THE PUBLIC OFFICERS.

His Excellency intimated that the proposal to raise the salaries of the public officers in the Colony in consequence of the decrease in the value of the dollar has been submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who has expressed the view that the subject should be fully investigated, and the results communicated to him. His Excellency therefore suggested that a committee be formed to study the matter. As the unofficial members of Council were persons entirely uninterested in the matter, he would propose that the Committee consist of all such unofficial members, with only one official member—the Colonial Secretary. Messrs. Chater, Ryrie, Keewick and Wong Shing were thereupon invited to join the Committee.

A REPEAL AND AN AMENDMENT.

The Colonial Secretary moved the first reading of a Bill, entitled "An Ordinance to repeal Ordinance No. 6 of 1886, and to amend the Statute Law Preservation Ordinance, 1886."

The Colonial Treasurer seconded. Bill read a first time.

His Excellency remarked that he would have liked to proceed with the Prayers Reclamation Bill before discussing any other matter, but the unavoidable absence of the Attorney General who was engaged in the Supreme Court, prevented him from doing so.

THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS ORDINANCE, 1890.

The Colonial Secretary rose to move the second reading of this Ordinance. The result dealt with offences under the head of the protection of girls under 12 years for immoral purposes with the registration of brothels, the power invested in the Registrar General when dealing with cases which came under his jurisdiction also provided for an asylum where grown-up women could be temporarily detained and placed under the supervision of the authorities of the Hospital, the appointment of officers, etc. He added that, for the provisions of this Bill, compulsory examination of women can be longer enforced in the colony.

Mr. Ryrie asked whether in view of desirability of returning to the former state things, a clause might not be introduced to repeal the abolition of the examination. Complaints were rife in naval and military circles that since the examination has been discontinued, the spread of disease has assumed alarming proportions.

His Excellency said that the provisions of the Bill were brought about by the efforts of the public opinion in England. Although he entertained strong feelings on the subject, his instructions were very peremptory. It would be useless to make efforts here to counter the passing of the Bill. The only thing which would propose would be to send a strong written protest to the home authorities after the Bill has been passed, urging the necessity of examination. The chief argument brought forward at home against the examination, was that degradation women were alleged to be subjected to while undergoing it. The argument was absolutely inapplicable to this Colony.

The Colonial Treasurer having seconded the motion for the second reading of the Bill, the Council went into Committee on it.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

THE SCORE.

The following are the remaining scores:—

Volunteer Rifle Association.—Respected to the Volunteers whose respective highest scores competitions Nov. 1st and 1st making the high

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